

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XE

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - REGIONAL AFFAIRS

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/RA - ROBERT J. MARTENS

1. HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMS TRANSFERS (CONFIDENTIAL)

WE ARE ENGAGED IN A NUMBER OF RUNNING DEBATES WITH D/HA ON ISSUES INCLUDING ARMS TRANSFERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS. ONE SPECIFIC ISSUE INVOLVES D/HA POSITIONS ON THE COPRODUCTION PROJECTS MENTIONED FURTHER BELOW RESPECTING M 16 RIFLES IN INDONESIA AND M-203 GRENADE LAUNCHERS IN SINGAPORE. WE REGARDED THE INITIAL D/HA POSITIONS AS LACKING IN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION IN THESE COUNTRIES AND ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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INSISTING ON CHANGES. ON A MORE GENERAL LEVEL, D/HA IS PROPOSING TO PLACE SMALL ARMS (RIFLE AND PISTOLS) INTENDED FOR INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES ON THE DESIGNATED WEAPONS LIST SO THAT AN INDIVIDUAL EXCEPTION WOULD HAVE TO BE OBTAINED IN EACH CASE. WE ARE ARGUING THAT THIS SHIFT IN THE BURDEN OF PROOF IS UNWARRANTED FOR SMALL ARMS.

2. COPRODUCTION CASES AND SINGAPORE I-HAWK (CONFIDENTIAL)

IN CONJUNCTION WITH PM, WE DRAFTED MEMORANDA ON THESE SUBJECTS. THE M-16/M-203 CASES ARE TO BE SENT TO THE NSC FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION UNDER THE LIGHT OF THE ARMS TRANSFER POLICY, FOLLOWED BY A DECISION MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT; THE I-HAWK CASE IS TO BE BROUGHT TO MR. HABIB FOR DECISION BY THE VEHICLE OF A JOINT HOLBROOKE/ GELB MEMORANDUM. BOTH MEMORANDA ARE TRAPPED IN A CONTINUOUS DRAFTING/REDRAFTING PROCESS AMONG EA, PM, ACDA, AND D/HA - A PROCESS IN WHICH THE MARGINAL COSTS LONG AGO EXCEEDED THE MARGINAL BENEFITS. EA IS IN FAVOR OF THESE ASSISTANCE TRANSACTIONS AND WE INTEND TO PRESS FOR EARLY FAVORABLE ACTION.

3. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BUDGET CYCLE (UNCLASSIFIED)

WE ARE NEARING THE COMPLETION OF PREPARATION OF THE EA PACKAGE FOR THE FY 1979 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, UNDER THE ZERO BASE BUDGETING (ZBB) PROCEDURE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE LIMITED TIME ALLOWED FOR COMPLETION HAS NOT PERMITTED ADEQUATE CONSULTATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE POSTS. THE DESKS - WHOSE COOPERATION HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING - HAVE RELIED LARGELY ON THE ANNUAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE ASSESSMENT CABLES.

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4. STORMFURY (CONFIDENTIAL)

A MEETING OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON WEATHER MODIFICATION IS TO BE HELD AUGUST 11 IN OES. IT WILL BE CHAIRED BY ASST. SECRETARY MINK AND WILL BE AT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT HAS BEEN CALLED TO DISCUSS THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON VARIOUS STORMFURY PROJECTS (PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED ARE PROJECTS IN AUSTRALIA, THE CARIBBEAN AND OFF THE COAST OF MEXICO). I WILL WANT TO DISCUSS THIS WITH YOU BEFORE THE MEETING. YOU WILL RECALL THAT OUR POSITION FOR EA HAS BEEN THAT IN PRINCIPLE SUCH PLANS ARE FINE PROVIDED THEY HAVE THE AGREEMENT OF ALL OF THOSE COUNTRIES LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY A SEEDED STORM AND THAT THE LIABILITY QUESTIONS (BOTH LEGAL AND POLITICAL) CAN BE SATISFACTORILY WORKED OUT.

5. BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY DEVELOPMENT (CONFIDENTIAL)

NEA AND A NUMBER OF OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN A MAJOR STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF A LARGE SCALE MULTI-NATIONAL WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE

SUBCONTINENT. WE WEIGHED IN STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION OF PRC-RELATED FACTORS AND QUESTIONED SOVIET INVOLVEMENT; OUR VIEWS ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY NEA ALONG WITH SOMEWHAT DIVERGENT VIEWS OF OTHERS IN THE SOVIET FACTOR.

6. THE ASIA FOUNDATION (LOU)

WE HAVE CIRCULATED FOR CLEARANCE TO CU AND AID A DRAFT REPLY TO FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN RUSSELL SMITH'S LETTER OF JULY 15 TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY (SEE LAST WEEK'S ITEM) AND I HAVE HAD MEETINGS WITH WORKING LEVEL OFFICERS ON HOW TO PROCEED ON AN OPTIONS PAPER, INFORMAL AGENDA, ETC. IN PREPARATION FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING BETWEEN SENIOR CONFIDENTIAL

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USG OFFICIALS AND FOUNDATION TRUSTEES.

7. STATUS OF PRM-28 HUMAN RIGHTS DRAFT (CONFIDENTIAL)

WE FOUND THE LATEST(FOURTH) DRAFT OF PRM-28 TO BE THE BEST SO FAR. NOT ONLY WAS IT THE SHORTEST (32 PAGES) IT WAS ALSO THE MOST BALANCED. ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF MOST EA SUGGESTIONS. OUR LATEST SUGGESTIONS ARE MINOR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A FIFTH DRAFT IS NOW IN THE WORKS BUT THAT COMPLETION AND DISTRIBUTION WILL HAVE TO AWAIT THE RETURN FROM LEAVE OF D/HA DEPUTY COORDINATOR MARK SCHNEIDER ON AUGUST 8. D/HA COORDINATOR PATT DERIAN IS CURRENTLY IN EL SALVADOR IN THE COURSE OF A TRIP TO VARIOUS ARA COUNTRIES.

8. UN NOTES

WELLS-PETRE TRIP (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE). BOTH EMBASSIES BANGKOK AND JAKARTA HAVE WELCOMED THE POSSIBILITY OF PRE-GA CONSULTATIONS WITH THE THAIS AND INDONESIANS BY AMBASSADOR WELLS AND MR. PETRE. IO TELLS US, HOWEVER, THAT SCHEDULING PROBLEMS WITH SRI LANKA WILL CALL FOR AN ADJUSTMENT IN THE ORIGINAL TIME-TABLE. THESE CHANGES ARE NOW BEING PUT TO THE FIELD. THE REVISED SCHEDULE WILL ADD ADDITIONAL TIME IN EA AND PROVIDE FOR A FULL STOPOVER IN SINGAPORE. PRESENT DATES ARE BANGKOK AUGUST 18-20; JAKARTA AUGUST 20-23 AND SINGAPORE AUGUST 25-28.

SYG'S TRAVEL PLANS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE). THE UN HAS ANNOUNCED THAT WALDHEIM HAS RESCHEDULED HIS TRIP TO CHINA FOR AUGUST 4-11. USUN ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT HE WILL VISIT MONGOLIA SEPTEMBER 8-10, FOLLOWING A TRIP TO THE USSR.

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POSSIBLE GA SPECIAL SESSION (CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN).THERE IS SOME TALK OF A SPECIAL GA SESSION ON NAMIBIA BUT NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED. IF IT TAKES PLACE, IT WOULD OCCUR NEAR THE TIME OF THE ALREADY SCHEDULED RESUMPTION OF THE 31ST GA AND THE OPENING OF THE REGULAR (32ND) ASSEMBLY. WE SEE PROBLEMS IN SUCH A SPECIAL SESSION SINCE IT COULD COMPLICATE THE NEGOTIATIONS PRESENTLY GOING ON REGARDING THE NAMIBIA PROBLEM.

9. US AND THE ILO (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE MEETING OF THE CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE ILO TO DECIDE WHAT RECOMMENDATION TO MAKE TO THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP TO THE ILO HAS BEEN POSTPONED FROM AUGUST 11 TO AUGUST 16, EVIDENTLY IN PART SO THAT THE SECRETARY COULD FIRST RECEIVE GEORGE MEANY AUGUST 15. AS YOU KNOW THE AFL-CIO (AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) IS RECOMMENDING THAT THE US LEAVE THE ILO.

AMONG EA NATIONS, THE MOST ACTIVE LOBBYING FOR CONTINUATION OF OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE ILO HAS COME FROM JAPAN, ALTHOUGH SIMILAR SENTIMENTS HAVE COME ALSO FROM AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND FIJI. MINISTER OF LABOR ISHIDA HAD WISHED TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH THE SECRETARY OF LABOR AND OTHERS DURING THE VISIT WHICH HE HAD HOPED TO MAKE TO THE US IN AUGUST. BECAUSE ISHIDA IS NOW SUFFERING FROM "EXHAUSTION" (PERHAPS A DIPLOMATIC ILLNESS) HE NOW HOPES TO VISIT THE US IN THE LATE FALL. CHRISTOPHER

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